

**WASHINGTON** - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell released the following statement regarding U.S. District Court Judge Susan Bolton's decision to issue a preliminary injunction against parts of Arizona's new law, Senate Bill 1070.

"Today's ruling should not provide Washington any kind of excuse not to address the issue. Arizonans are justifiably fed up with the federal government's failure to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system, and are fed up with all the political posturing and grandstanding on this issue.

I still firmly believe that decision for the Justice Department to sue Arizona was the wrong direction to go. I've repeatedly urged President Obama and his administration against suing our state because I strongly believe their time, efforts and resources should be focused on securing our border and helping fix our broken immigration system. Arizona needs Washington to take action, but protracted litigation is definitely not the kind of action we need.

There are no victors today, except those who want to use this protracted litigation as a means to grandstand and score political points, instead of actually rolling up their sleeves and getting to work to help fix the problem.

Illegal immigration affects our state more than it does any other -- more than half of all illegal crossings over the U.S.-Mexico border happen in Arizona. The federal government has a responsibility to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system, but hasn't done so, and Arizona continues to shoulder the burden.

I believe that if the new state law spurs Washington to act, then it is a good thing. But make no mistake: neither the state law, nor the lawsuit to overturn it - nor today's temporary injunction - will fix the problem, secure our border, or fix a broken immigration system."

Since taking office, Mitchell has advocated for increased border security measures. [Click here](#) for a sample of these efforts.

Previously, Mitchell has

- Called on President Obama urging that his administration not sue to block Arizona's immigration law, SB 1070. [Source: [Letter to President](#) , June 21, 2010; [The Arizona Republic](#) , July 2, 2010]
- Introduced, the Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act, bipartisan legislation to require the deployment of additional National Guard troops to the U.S. Mexico border [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , May 21, 2010]
- Offered a bipartisan amendment and called on the Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, Rep. Ike Skelton, to include within a final National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, a provision to send thousands more National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. [Source: Letter to Chairman Skelton, June 29, 2010]; and
- Most recently, introduced, along with Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA), the bi-partisan Stop the Drop Houses Act, H.R. 5769, a bill to close a federal loop hole and help authorities fight the drop house epidemic in the Valley, which are magnets for crime and violence frequently used by Mexican cartels as way stations for their illegal smuggling operations. [Source: [Phoenix Business Journal](#) , July 19, 2010]

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